

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: Paul E. Brunemeier et al.  
Assignee: Novellus Systems, Inc.  
Title: Inhomogeneous Materials Having Physical Properties Decoupled From Desired Functions  
Serial No.: 10/092,201 Filing Date: 3/4/2002  
Examiner: Jeffrey Robertson Group Art Unit: 1712  
Docket No.: NVS016 US Confirmation No.: 8606

Santa Clara, California  
September 12, 2003

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

In Response to the Office Action dated March 31, 2003, Applicants elect without traverse to have the invention of Group I, Claims 1-16, examined. Please withdraw from consideration Claims 17-21, and Claims 22-28 which are drawn to the invention of Groups II and III. Applicants reserve the right to seek examination of the invention of Groups II or III in a divisional application.

Enclosed is a request for a (5) month extension of time and the applicable fee of \$1970.00. If the Patent Office determines that other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with this filing to Deposit Account No. 50-2263 referencing Attorney Docket No.: NVS016 US.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this response, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (408) 982-8200, ext. 1.

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Please note the new docket number assigned to this application.

**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to the fax number 703-872-9310 on September 12, 2003.

*David E. Steuber*  
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Attorney for Applicant(s)

*9/12/03*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

*David E. Steuber*  
David E. Steuber  
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